

CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY GARDENS



AGENDA

- ❖ Welcome statement by John Nardone
- ❖ Gardener's Responsibility (CC)
- ❖ Plot Maintenance (ISD)
- ❖ Common Area Maintenance (ISD)
- ❖ Fall Cleanup (ISD)
- ❖ Composting (DPW)
- ❖ Rodent Control (ISD)
- ❖ Types of Plantings (CC)
- ❖ Garden Policy (CC)

GARDENERS RESPONSIBILITY

City of Cambridge currently offers gardening plots in 10 community gardens. There are 3 additional gardens on private property (Cambridge College, Harvard & MIT). Each gardener who has been granted the privilege to garden is responsible for the upkeep of their plot and the common area within the garden.

The number of plots are limited and gardeners need to familiarize and abide by the City's policy. Each garden has a coordinator that takes on the responsibility to oversee that the gardeners proceed properly.

If a City of Cambridge plot is not maintained the gardener is at the risk of losing the privilege that was granted to them by the City of Cambridge.

Excellent Plot & Common Area Maintenance



PLOT MAINTENANCE

During the gardening season which is April through November:

- ▶ All plots must be kept free of fallen fruits & vegetables.
- ▶ Plots must be weeded frequently to prevent harborage for rodents.
- ▶ All plantings must be contained within plot boundaries.
- ▶ All discarded fruits, vegetables and weeds must be placed in barrels or brown bags and place at curb for DPW pick up on assigned days. The contents will be used to produce compost available within the City yard facility.

PLOT MAINTENANCE (cont.)

- ▶ All ripened fruits and vegetables must be harvested so that it doesn't fall to the ground.
- ▶ When all of your harvestings are completed, regardless of time in season, clean your plot. You do not need to wait until the end of the season.

OVERGROWTH IS HARBORAGE



COMMON AREA MAINTENANCE

During the gardening season which is April through November:

- ▶ All common areas (walkways and outer perimeter) must be kept free of fallen fruits & vegetables.
- ▶ Common areas must be weeded frequently to prevent harborage for rodents.
- ▶ All fruits, vegetables and weeds must be placed in barrels or brown bags and place at curb for DPW pick-up on assigned days. The contents will be used to produce compost available within the City yard facility.

FALL CLEAN-UP

All plots and common areas must be cleaned out at the end of each season. All items listed below must be removed:

- A. Plantings
- B. Weeds
- C. Fallen Fruits & Vegetables
- D. Potential Harborage

A, B & C above are considered yard waste and must be put in barrels or brown bags to be placed at curb on designated pick-up dates. The contents will be used to produce compost available within the City yard facility.

GRUB AND SCRUB PLOTS



COMPOSTING

The required time to produce useable compost is much longer than a gardening season. As a result the City has decided to remove composters from each garden and provide compost to each garden once a season.

- DPW will drop off approximately 3 yards of compost to each garden on a specified date (TBD).
- Gardeners will be required to transport the compost from the drop-off site to their plot within a designated time period.
- Gardeners may pick-up additional compost in the DPW yard:
 - ❖ Tuesdays, 4:00pm - 7:30pm
 - ❖ Thursdays, 4:00pm - 7:30pm
 - ❖ Saturdays, 9:00am - 4:00pm

Gardens bordering residential properties attract rodents



RODENT CONTROL

Rodents are a serious issue. Gardens are bordered with residential and commercial properties. The rodents that live in the gardens cause problems for the adjacent properties.

They feast on:

- **Fallen Fruits**
- **Fallen Vegetables**

They burrow under:

- **Weeds**
- **Low Lying and Dying Plants**
- **Improper Composting**
- **Stakes, Tomato Cages, Tools etc.**

Public Works Department and Inspectional Services are working together to get the word out about rodents.

Public Works is providing the following to each City garden:

- 2 yard waste barrels
- 3 yards of compost yearly
- Access to additional compost at City yard

Inspectional Services will inspect each garden:

- April
- Mid Season
- Fall
- Unscheduled

TYPES OF PLANTINGS

- Annuals Only: plants that have just one growing cycle; planted in the spring and die in the fall after the first frost.
- Existing Perennials: all perennials can be significantly cut back or deadheaded to promote healthy plants and limit harborage.

GARDEN POLICY

Cambridge Residents Only

- Plot Distribution: newly created gardens are assigned by a lottery; existing gardens are assigned from the waitlist in chronological order.
- One Plot Per Household: in no case should a household have more than one plot.
- Plot Turnover: plots are available for 3-5 year terms based on garden attrition; enforced at gardens created after 2013.

GARDEN POLICY CONTINUED

- No New Composters
- Safe Gardening Practices: no herbicides or pesticides; fertilizers used as directed by manufacturer and never left in the garden; tools must be safely stored.
- Keep Gardens Clean: remove weeds and fallen fruit as soon as possible; clear and grub garden to maximum extent possible every fall; remove all garden materials and tools before the winter.